

Heavy metal toxicity in pet parrots - common sources of zinc and lead in the home environment

ZINC

- Galvanised wire, clips, padlocks and feeding bowls especially when new
- White rust on older galvanised products
- Metal Monopoly® game pieces and other toys
- Some coins especially foreign coins (USA)
- C-clamps used to attach toys to cages
- Wires used as hangers for chewsticks
- Shiny silver coating on cage bars
- Adhesives e.g. cold water glues and glass cement
- Battery cases and insides of zinc batteries
- Bone substitute in cutlery handles, dental cement and billiard balls
- Cellulose lacquers
- Germicidal products, medical plasters, shaving creams, soaps, lotions and cosmetics
- Enamels and stove finishes
- Fire-proofed fabrics
- Glazes on porcelain
- Greases and lubricants
- Linoleum and oil cloths
- Mercarising agent in cottons
- Mordanting agent in rayons
- Paints
- Plastics
- Printing inks
- Rot-proofed canvas
- Rubber
- Trainers and plimsolls
- Waterproofing of paper, leather and textiles
- Weighting agent for silks
- Wood preservatives
- Zinc metal diecast children's toys, dinky cars, soldiers etc
- Adhesive plasters especially non-waterproof types

LEAD

- Antiques
- Frames of windows and doors
- Various ornaments
- Various lead objects e.g. ashtrays, plastic toys (some have lead weights)
- "Fishing wire"
- Balls
- Old paintings, old wood carvings, galvanized wire
- Welds on wrought iron cages
- Tiffany lamps

- Improperly glazed ceramics
- The paint on the outside of “lead” pencils
- Wheel balances
- Bells – check for lead clappers
- Self righting toys
- Batteries
- Solder
- Lead pellets from air rifles or shotgun cartridges
- Lead based paints, varnishes and lacquers (some lead free paints have leaded drying agents)
- Aerosolisation of lead-based paint (most paints contain lead even “lead free paints”)
- Foil from champagne and wine corks
- Electrician’s cable clips
- Light bulb bases
- Linoleum and roofing felt
- Chronic exposure to vapours containing i.e. car exhaust fumes lead (incl. those of petrol and motor oils) and mechanics’ overalls etc.
- Some lubricants (lead naphthalate)
- Glazed ceramics and mirror backing/silvering
- Cosmetic/Victorian/Costume (cheap) jewellery
- Plaster and putty
- Lead or stained glass windows
- Stained glass (decorative glass) – lead seam
- Seeds for planting (coated with lead arsenate)
- Many types of polythene, PVC and plastics – these colouring agents of plastics used to make horticultural implements e.g. pots, trays, watering cans
- Horticultural plastic (lead in dyes) – food-grade plastics are lead free
- Curtain weights
- Sailing and boating accessories
- Fishing weights
- Hardware cloth
- Contaminated bone meal and dolomite products
- Contaminated cuttlefish bone
- Coloured newspaper
- Victorian and cheap costume jewellery (amateur dramatics).
- Vulcanised polythenes
- Coloured plastics used to cover wire